



Communicator

Mahoning County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
June 2009

Board Business

New Wellness Policy Approved

The Board has approved a new Wellness Policy that includes funding for development and/or continuation of wellness program activities such as distribution of educational materials, professional speakers, classes and in-services, subsidizing of fitness facilities and employee reward incentives for participation in wellness activities.

2009 Summer Enrichment Program Planned for June 15 – July 31.

The 2009 Summer Enrichment Program provides opportunities for children with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities. This year it will be held at Leonard Kirtz School five days per week from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. June 15 through July 31. (There will be no camp for the 4th of July week, as the MRDD program is closed.)

The program is run by the Mahoning County Educational Service Center (MCESC) in collaboration with MCBMRDD. MCBMRDD provides transportation for students living in Mahoning County who are identified under the OEDI/COEDI process.

Services include classroom supervision by a licensed teacher with programming based on the Individual Education Plan, use of the pool and greenhouse, functional recreational activities, Assistive Technology support, related services (Speech, OT and PT) in the classrooms on a consultation basis and a full-time nurse on site. Individual or small group therapy (Speech, OT and PT) is available at a minimal additional charge.

Most school districts cover the \$500.00 cost in order to provide IEP continuance under the Extended School Year (ESY). The Mahoning County Board of MRDD also supports the program through additional funding.

Summer can be a stressful and isolating for children with MRDD. With the help of MCESC and MCBMRDD the campers will enjoy summer activities with their own peer group and will return to school with new skills and experience.

For information, contact Elaine Gamberale at MCESC - 330-965-7828 or your MCBMRDD Service & Support Administrator.

Speech Therapy Now Available for Adults Through Mahoning MRDD

Beginning in June, new legislation will provide for coverage of speech therapy through Mahoning MRDD. Therapy services will be billed directly to insurance or Medicaid, allowing the Board to expand services and convenience without incurring additional costs.

Energy conservation renovations pay dividends

In the first year after energy conservation renovations were completed, the Board has saved between \$60,000 and \$61,000 in energy costs. At its April meeting, the Board approved repaying the lease/finance agreement that funded the improvements in full. An action that will eliminate \$150,000 in interest payments.

"Money Follows the Person" Program Available

The "Money Follows the Person" program through the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, provides help for individuals moving from institutions into the community to live on a waiver. The individual can receive start-up funds for the move and assistance from MCBMRDD.

Staff Attends "Gentle Teaching" Seminar

John McGee, PhD, presented a seminar on Gentle Teaching to staff members including Maria Volpe, Carole DeCicco, Waymond Grace and James Groner. Gentle Teaching asks caregivers to look at themselves and their spirit of gentleness to find ways to express warmth and unconditional love toward those who are the most disenfranchised from family and community life.

Published By: MCBMRDD
4791 Woodridge Drive
Austintown, Ohio 44515

330-797-2825

Open Monday through Friday
8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

www.mahoningmrdd.org

LEGAL NOTICE

The Mahoning County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities will hold a public forum on Monday, June 15, 2009 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Leonard Kirtz School, 4801 Woodridge Drive, Austintown, Ohio 44515.

The purpose of this meeting will be to gather information regarding support and services for individuals with MRDD served by the County Board.

The County Board invites all interested parties, including consumers of Board services, families, guardians, social service agencies, providers and anyone else who wishes to provide input into the County Board's process for developing an annual plan for services to individuals with MRDD in Mahoning County.

Save Money ... Save a Tree

You can save MCBMRDD money and save the trees as well by signing up to receive the Communicator via e-mail. Please provide your e-mail address to Paul Iden (piden@mahoningmrdd.org) to get your next issue electronically.



2009 Golf Outing Fundraiser Announced Committee seeking sponsorships

Golf Outing Committee co-chairs Marty Picciano and George Winsen are seeking sponsors for the 2009 event to be held at Salem Hills Golf & Country Club on August 3. "On behalf of more than 1,100 individuals with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities, we are once again asking for support of this fundraiser, which is the only source of money for our levy campaigns," the co-chairs commented.

Because of the outstanding support of past golf outings, the levy committee has had the money needed to pass seven critical ballot issues since 1992. These local levies provide 70% to 80% of total revenue for MCBMRDD programs that serve individuals of all ages across Mahoning County.

The field of golfers is currently full, but the committee is accepting names for a waiting list in the event of cancellations.

For more information on sponsorships or golfing, contact; Marty Picciano (330)797-2833 or George Winsen (330)797-2883.





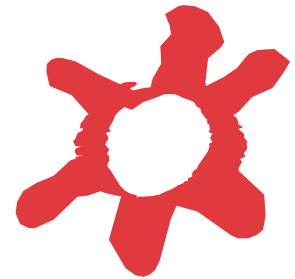
Relay for Life "Celebrates Survivors' Birthdays"

This year's birthday-themed American Cancer Society Relay for Life was one of the most successful in the event's history, according to co-chairs Susan Walters and Helen Rae Tarantino. More than 39 individuals signed up and walkers were joined by many other supporters enjoying the glorious Spring day.

Ten baskets of goodies provided by individuals and MCBMRDD facilities were raffled off and the event raised a total of nearly \$8,000.

The most moving part of the event for many participants was the Survivors' Lap. The audience clapped and cheered as cancer survivors, some still in treatment, others enjoying an extended recovery, completed the first lap of the the relay.

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life represents the hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten, that those who face cancer will be supported, and that one day cancer will be eliminated.



Welcome New Staff



Mary Handzlik
Service & Support
Administrator



Colleen Solinger
Cook

Men's Garden Club of Youngstown Plant Sale Funds Beautification Efforts

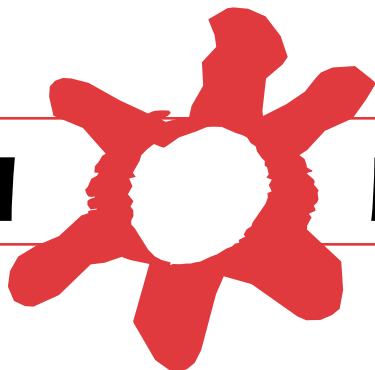
Rental of the Bev MASCO greenhouse by the Men's Garden Club of Youngstown at virtually no cost has been a winner for MCBMRDD and the Club since the beginning. In return for use of the facilities, the club has planted gardens at Bev MASCO, Leonard Kirtz School and the Centre @ Javit Court. The Club also provides opportunities for individuals in Board programs to learn the joys and skills of gardening.

"We would like to thank everyone at MRDD who has been so supportive of our programs," noted Member John Schinker, "Their efforts have enabled us to enjoy phenomenal growth." When the program started, the Club was raising 5,000 to 6,000 plants. This year, they raised 50,000 plants in the greenhouses at Bev MASCO and Leonard Kirtz School.

Each year the Club holds a plant sale to support its mission of "creating a better understanding of gardening and encouraging and promoting the beautification of our community through example and education." This year's sale raised money for horticultural scholarships, funding of the Fall Horticultural Show and Winter Seminar and the Youth Gardening Program at Akron Children's Hospital. The club will also plant gardens for two Habitat for Humanity homes this year and sponsor vegetable gardens for city youth.



Special



Recognition



Jason Guy, Centre@Javit Court, is a Leonard Kirtz graduate who has made an excellent adjustment to the Centre. He enjoys playing musical instruments and participates in pool therapy. Staff use his step-by-step talker to exchange information with his family.



John Roman, Bev MASCO, uses his natural sociability to make running the Food Service counter a great success. He is always very clean cut and sharp looking and is very dependable on contract work as well.



Charlotte Vernello, Bev MASCO, has experienced many changes over the past year, including a new home and a new roommate. She is diligent and hardworking and always rolls with the punches.



Mary Lou Cunningham, Centre@Javit Court, is a gracious lady who loves puzzles, Red Hat parties and going out to dinner.

Robert Monoski, Jr., Meshel MASCO, joined the program in February and showed great talent from the beginning. He does clerical work, keeps attendance, files and runs errands.



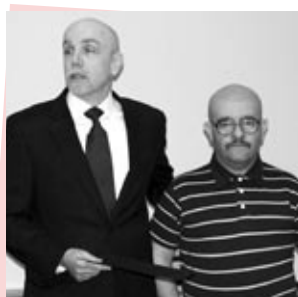
Michael Crespo, Meshel MASCO, works at Hynes Industries in the morning, has his lunch at Meshel and works there in the afternoons. He is a great help all around, including assisting individuals in boarding the buses.



Jessica Merrell, Leonard Kirtz School, is new to the school. Her goal has been to gain independence in mobility. She is making great progress toward this goal and has been seen navigating the corridors of LKS in her electric wheelchair with a "Student Driver" sign on the back.



Da'Vail Bryant, Leonard Kirtz School, has adjusted very well to the school and is making great strides in motor skill control. He loves to swim and is always the "Best Dressed" in the school. His mother and grandparents provide tremendous support and are a joy to work with.



Rocco Bernard, Supported Employment, just celebrated his tenth anniversary working at the Doral Drive Giant Eagle in Boardman. He meets the store's high expectations with outstanding customer service. His success at this demanding job is a great example of how well Supported Employment can work for both employers and individuals.





American Idol Night

Forty-nine individuals sang songs of their choosing to an audience of more than 300 enthusiastic fans during the second annual Meshel MASCO "Idol Night."



Mahoning Valley Phantom Hockey Team Holds Rally at LKS

Rosanne Morell had just two days to put together a very special event featuring the Mahoning Valley Phantoms after receiving a phone call from the team office. LKS physical education teacher Blase Brush led a rally introducing members of the team as LKS students and staff cheered.



"The Ghost" visits LKS

Middleweight Champion Boxer Kelly Pavlik's visit to Leonard Kirtz School was an exciting event for staff and students alike. He spent more than two hours at the school, graciously posing for pictures, signing autographs and answering questions.



Aktion Club Collects Food for Local Families

The Aktion Club is the newest member of the Service Leadership Programs of Kiwanis International. Recently established at MCBMRDD, it provides opportunities for individuals living with disabilities to give back to the community. This year's food drive provided five large boxes of food for each local family in need.



PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS

Service and Support Administration Department Seeks Volunteers for Human Rights Committee

Parents/guardians, providers and interested members of the community are invited to join the MCBMRDD Human Rights Committee, according to Maria Volpe, SSA Supervisor. Members may not be employed by MCBMRDD.

The Human Rights Committee is charged with protecting the due process rights of individuals who receive services and supports from MCBMRDD. The committee is accountable for understanding due process and for questioning any situation in which a person's rights are restricted for any reason. The committee also addresses issues of privacy and personal freedom, including phone calls, e-mail accounts and relationships. Issues of informed consent, restrictive behavior support plans, allegations of abuse, neglect and exploitation and use of psychotropic medication are also reviewed by the committee.

Among its many duties, the committee:

Educates individuals, staff and the public about the structure and purpose of the Human Rights committee.

Develops and implements policies and practices to ensure that all relevant aspects of the full exercise of human rights and advocacy are addressed.

Provides a personal representative, who may be an advocate or attorney to speak on his/her behalf before the committee.

Ensures that any plan that restricts rights includes a plan for restoring those rights and that all rights restrictions are time-limited.

Anyone interested in joining the committee should contact Maria Volpe at 330-797-2869.

Bill of Rights for Individuals with Mental Retardation and Other Developmental Disabilities

Be treated nicely at all times and as a person

Have a clean safe place to live in and a place to be alone

Have food that is good for you

Be able to go, if you want, to any church, temple or mosque

Be able to go to a doctor or dentist when you are sick

Be able to have people help you with the way you walk, talk, do things with your hands, act or feel, if you need it

Be able to have people help and teach you, if you want

Be able to have time and a place to go to be by yourself

Be able to call, write letters or talk to anyone you want about anything you want

Be able to have your own things and be able to use them

Be able to have men and women as friends

Be able to join in activities and do things that will help you grow to be the best person you can be

Be able to work and make money

Be treated like everyone else

Not be hit, yelled at, cursed at, or called names that hurt you

Be able to learn new things, make friends, have activities to do, and go out in your community

Be able to tell people what you want and be part of making plans or decisions about your life

Be able to ask someone you want to help you, let others know how you feel or what you want

Be able to use your money to pay for things you need and want with help, if you need it

Be able to say yes or no before people talk about what you do at work or home or look at your file

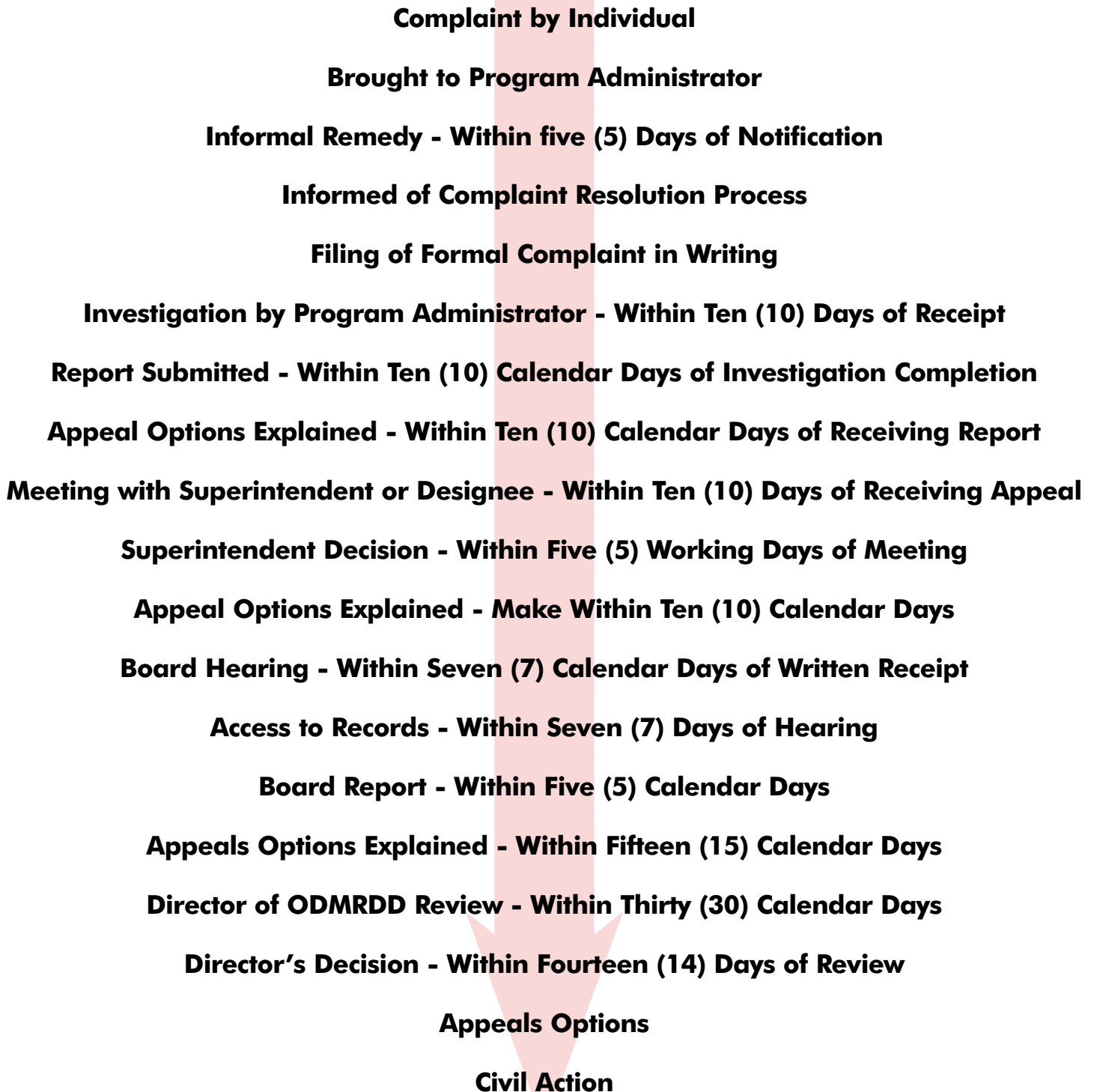
Be able to complain or ask for changes if you don't like something without being afraid of getting in trouble

Not be given medicine that you don't need, or be held down if you are not hurting yourself or others

To vote and learn about laws and your community

To say yes or no to being part of a study or experiment

MAHONING COUNTY BOARD OF MENTAL RETARDATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES Complaint Resolution Flow Chart





Waiting List Questionnaire Helps in Planning

Maria Volpe, SSA Supervisor, has requested that individuals on the waiting list return a waiting list form to ensure that MCBMRDD has accurate information. The answers provided improve the planning process and ensure that individuals or their parents/guardians can be contacted if the need arises.

Please fill out the form on the reverse and return to the Mahoning County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Service and Support Administration by mail:

**Mahoning County Board of MRDD
Community Services Department
130 Javit Court
Austintown, OH 44515**

or FAX TO: 330-799-2977



Mahoning County Board of MRDD

Waiting List Questionnaire

Individual's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Current Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Current Program: _____

☐ School Name: _____ Expected Date of Graduation: _____

☐ Community Employment: _____

☐ Day Program (Workshop): _____

☐ Other: _____

☐ None: _____

I am currently on the following Waiting Lists:	I am no longer interested in this service, please remove me from this Waiting List.	If this service were available today, would you be able and willing to accept this service now?		If no, approximately when do you think you would be ready to accept this service?
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Options Waiver	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
<input type="checkbox"/> Level 1 Waiver	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
<input type="checkbox"/> Supported Living	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Adult Services:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Bev MASCO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
<input type="checkbox"/> Meshel MASCO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
<input type="checkbox"/> Seniors Program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
<input type="checkbox"/> Habilitation Program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	

Individual's Signature _____ Date _____ Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____

WaitListQuest.2/5/08.mjo

Please return to: Mahoning County Board of MRDD
Community Services Department
130 Javit Court
Austintown, OH 44515



*Mahoning County Board of Mental Retardation
and Developmental Disabilities*

4791 Woodridge Drive • Austintown, Ohio 44515-5100

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Have a Question about MCBMRDD Programs?

If you would like more information on the Mahoning County Board of MRDD's programs, policies, facilities, hours of operation, addresses, telephone numbers, or if you would like clarification of something you heard about the MCBMRDD, please contact Paul Iden at 4791 Woodridge Drive, Austintown, Ohio 44515 or by telephone at 330-797-3051 or by e-mail to piden@mahoningmrdd.org

GOT NEWS?

Pass information to Paul Iden. E-mail: piden@mahoningmrdd.org
330-797-3051

www.mahoningmrdd.org

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Mahoning County Probate Court Judge

**The Honorable
Judge Mark A. Belinky**